

How Yazoo County Farmers Can Increase Their Wealth;

Professor Beeson's Address As Reported From Memory

During the recent visit to Yazoo City of the men and women engaged in the "More-Profitable-Farming Campaign," one of the speakers, Prof. J. W. Beeson, of Meridian, spoke to the pupils of Yazoo City High School No. 1. Miss Emma Hooper, teacher in English at the school, asked the class in English to reproduce, entirely from memory, Mr. Beeson's address, and a number of the pupils submitted their written reports the following day. Among them were John Hinman, John Griffin, Carey Brickell, David Sherrard, Edwin Rivers, and Misses Georgia Pettit and Aileen Cooper. The splendid work being done by these bright young English pupils may be judged by the following reports of Prof. Beeson's speech, one by John Griffin, son of Capt. S. S. Griffin, and the other by Carey Brickell, son of Mr. H. H. Brickell:

PROF. BEESON'S ADDRESS.

A Mental Reproduction.

By John Griffin.

Owing to the labors of the logical thinkers of the South and the fair-minded men of the North and North-western States, the South is not gradually, but by rapid leaps, being developed into the rich and prosperous land that it should be; and that God intended it to be. He gave us a land that is rich in natural resources and what have we done to it? In many instances we have worn it out. Why, a few of the farmers have actually boasted of the number of farms that they have worn out. They are to be pitied. For they haven't had the opportunity of being taught the proper and only way to become prosperous farmers, but we have. Therefore we can not look to have the pity of our descendants if we should rob the soil of its wealth. Nor should we have their pity. Instead, we should have their abuse. For we have (not on account of the lack of opportunity, forced upon them a land to gain knowledge that would be beneficial, that is fit for nothing except to impoverish and deceive them. Is that the way God intended it to be? Did He intend this land to be a source of wealth to only one generation? Why, certainly not; for if He had, He would not have provided a way to restore the richness to the soil. And He not only provided a way of restoring the nitrogen, etc., to the earth, but He made the way profitable and also easy.

Nature Provides a Way.

By letting certain grasses grow, the cattle and horses can feed, thus saving money that would have necessarily been spent for feed. Then we have saved money without striking a lick of work. Various other ways can be used, but they are just a little more laborious, but more profitable. One way is, by growing leguminous crops in rotation with the crops that take up the nitrogen and humus from the soil. The former crops add nitrogen and humus; the latter extract it. In this manner the soil is kept in the state that the intellectual agriculturist desires. If we do not increase the wealth of the soil in order that it may be beneficial to our descendants, what can we say when we are called upon by the Almighty God to hand in our final account on judgment day? Can we say that we have "done unto others as we would have them do unto us?" No, we can not, for we have not made it so that they may have wealth, pleasure and conveniences as we have had in the natural resources of the land.

A Debt to Prosperity.

Now since this is true, is there any condition that would justify us in treating our descendants in a way

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that we, ourselves, would dislike to be treated? I hope and think that we are all of the negative opinion. They are using poorly the judgment they ought to have in the top of the head where the brain is supposed to be. They farm from the "nose down" and get about \$1.00 or perhaps \$1.50 a day. They who farm from the "nose up," get—oh, their income is almost unlimited in comparison to the other. Of which class are you?

A great number of the farmers have already begun farming from the "nose up," and the men, who are making the speeches that will deliver the South, are of the opinion that all farmers will eventually farm from the "nose up." And of course they are right, for the true Southerner will never let the North take the South's wealth as long as it is in his power to interfere. This spirit was demonstrated in the sixties, but the method of objecting in the sixties was for the most part, by physical strength. The method of the present day is also by force, but by intellectual and economical force. And we are bound to win, for the North has no way to fight us.

The South's Advantages.

In the South we have much the advantage of the North. Land is cheaper and so is the labor at the present day. We are not hampered by harsh, terrific and lasting winters. In their stead we have what you might call a winter that puts "pep" into you. You feel like working. And just when you are getting a little tired of winter, along comes spring, as if at your request. And not only is the climate delightful to live in, but it also renders inexpensive the raising of animals and vegetables. Concerning the animals, costly barns do not have to be built for their protection. As to the vegetables, we have a longer growing season for them than any other part of America. Also the clear streams and the abundance of rainfall make the South an admirable place for raising stock. Is it thus in the North? No. In that country, besides having to build expensive barns, they have winters that oft times freeze or starve the stock off. They have to make provision for watering the stock on account of the streams freezing over. Nor is their growing season as long, nor can as great a variety of crops be grown. As their winter is longer they can not pasture the stock nearly so long as we can. Thus their expenses are more than ours.

The South to Blame.

No wonder that they have devised a way of getting our money North. They would be poor compared with us if we did not thoughtlessly permit them to carry off our money. The natural obstacles of the North are distinctly disadvantageous. Not so with ours.

Notwithstanding the advantages of the South, it is a known fact that we are much poorer than the Northerner. For example, let us contrast Mississippi and Iowa: The average wealth of a person in Iowa, including the boys and girls from ten years up, is \$3,386. Does that hold true in Mississippi? No. Our average wealth is \$302. Just one-tenth that of an Iowaian. In Iowa, too, did you know that the farmers own 85 per cent of the bank deposits? If they were to draw out their money, every bank would "go broke" before night, but if the farmers of Mississippi were to draw all their money out of the banks, you would not know they had been to town.

How the North Got the Money.

And where did the money come from that made Iowa rich and where did the money go that impoverished Mississippi? It went from Mississippi to Iowa. Then you want to know why it went to Iowa. And the answer is, because Iowa sold us food. The complete story is this: We sold them our cotton in order that we might buy food. We have to get food where it is raised; it wasn't raised in the South; so we had to send our money back North for food. The wise Northerner charged us just about what he had paid us for cotton. Of course he left us enough to get out start on the next year, if "backed up" by a merchant, so that there will be a next year's crop for him to take from the thoughtless Southerner—and put more

money into his pocket. But how could we prevent being cheated like this? We've got to live, no matter what price we have to pay. And the Northerner knows this. As a result, at the end of the year we have neither money nor cotton—only a taste in our mouth. (It doesn't last long, either.)

We're the Northern Boarder.

To bring the matter down to plain facts, we are acting the part of what in every-day life you call a boarder. We are boarding up North, paying out our hard-earned money to a landlady, who knows that she has no competitors and therefore "sticks it to us."

How long are we going to tolerate a land-lady like that? One who makes us give her 15 bales of cotton at 9 cents a pound for 100 bushels of canned sweet potatoes? You know, it takes about an acre to produce the potatoes and it takes about 16 or 17 acres to produce the cotton. Now, isn't that a lovely exchange?

If it were not possible for us to help ourselves, it would be different, but we can. Why, we can raise vegetables and pork at home, hay and land and flour, etc., and a better quality of the vegetables, meats, etc., which is an assurance of health and happiness, for we will certainly treat ourselves fair when it comes to eating; not like our friends toward the North, who try to make the food they sell us look as big as possible and the pork they send us you may be sure has been drained of its lard. But we get the lard also! Yes, but at an extra expense.

Summing It Up.

In summing the whole matter up you find that we pay about three times as much as it would cost to raise and can the peaches, okra, tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, meal, corn and the great variety of meats, as pork, ham, bacon, etc., and what is that which we pay such an immense price for? A third is for the substance; another third is for the Northern shrewdness; the other third for freight expense. We pay for everything concerned, you notice. Why, you wouldn't think that these things could be raised here, for if they could, certainly any people would care enough about economics to save two-thirds of their money that is needlessly paid out for shrewdness that is acting against them, and another third for an expense that could be avoided. It is hard to believe that foods which we order from the North costing us a total amount of about \$2,000,000 per year, could possibly be raised in this county. But they can. Just think if we raised our own food supply we would have about \$2,000,000 surplus money, to do what ever we wished with. Wouldn't we be happy, though?

What We Could Do.

Let us see what we could do with this \$2,000,000. We could build twenty-five consolidated schools, twenty-five churches, fifty miles of hard costly roads, say ten miles out from town in five directions or more. We could pay pastors, teachers, and many farm demonstrators, whose achievements would be nearly unlimited. In a few years our Southland would be very rich in developed resources, the people would be happy and prosperous; the banks would be flourishing and lending money on easy terms—that is, if any one had to borrow. The stores would be filled with canned articles, not with labels on them from Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Maryland. No, no, but in their stead you would see the labels marked, "Canned by the Girls' Canning Club of Yazoo County," or any other county. And the boys would be interested in raising large, fine pigs that had been fed with care at little expense.

Our Cotton a Surplus.

Then what will Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and the others be doing? Why, they'll be eating their own, as they say, fine canned goods; and we wouldn't mind how many they ate, for we will not be dependent upon them. Our cotton can be let at any price we desire, for if they don't buy it, well, we won't mind putting it under the shed and saving it until they find that they need it bad enough to pay our set price.

When all this comes true, as it is bound to do, if we stick together on this proposition, then who will be the "landlady?" And who will be happy and never know "hard times?" The farmers are the ones. In this section they will have the money with which to construct steam plants, water works, electric lights, etc., each on his own farm, and the auto will furnish a speedy means for reaching town over the hard permanent roads.

All we have to do is pull together, for "where there is a will there is a way."

MORE PROFITABLE FARMING.

A Mental Reproduction.

By Carey Brickell.

This campaign for more profitable farming in the South is being carried on by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce. We are out in the interest of the people, to show them how to live and feed themselves at home. Every year the Northern States ship over a billion dollars worth of foodstuffs to the Southern States. Why is this true? Because the South farms without brains and the North uses brains.

The average wealth in Iowa is \$3,386 per capita. In Mississippi it is only \$302 per capita. This is because of the enormous amounts of foodstuffs that we import from the North. The North keeps the money it makes and gets a large share of the money that we make. We ship farm products to the North at low prices and then buy these same products back at higher prices, but in a different form.

Yazoo County Imports.

In 1914 Yazoo County imported over two million dollars worth of feed stuffs and exported only a few hundred dollars worth more. The difference in imports and exports is not enough to clothe Yazoo County's people. The following is a partial list of Yazoo's imports.

Meats, beef, pork, lard, etc. \$482,000
Canned goods 16,000
Potatoes, fresh vegetables 5,000
Flour 200,000
Horses and mules 50,000
Feed stuffs, corn, hay, etc. 1,084,000
Butter and cheese 10,000
Eggs 2,000

Why can't Yazoo County raise beef and pork? Why can't Yazoo's people can their surplus vegetables? This county can raise fine potatoes and vegetables of every kind, and still they import large quantities of these necessities. This is one of the finest butter countries in the world and still we import butter.

How the North Prospers.

The South wastes; the North saves. We make our own syrup and leave the ground stalks to rot. The North buys these stalks, cuts them up and ships them back to us as mixed feed. The North buys our vegetables in large quantities, has us ship them with freight prepaid, cans these vegetables, sends them back to us and has us pay freight on them.

Now the question arises, how can the boys and girls help? This is the answer:

1. Grow a garden.
2. Raise some poultry.
3. Raise one or two pigs.
4. Raise some corn.
5. Can the surplus vegetables.

By doing these things you will find that you will almost never be without plenty of spending money. Poultry raising is very profitable, if it is carried on scientifically. A balanced ration is absolutely necessary for egg-laying. Corn fed entirely to poultry is not good. It contains too much protein. Shell and charcoal are very necessary for successful poultry raising. One of the ladies in our company has six hundred chickens, from which she clears \$1.50 a year per chicken. She even pays rent on her poultry yard, and pays market prices for every pound of feed that her chickens get.

How to Raise Poultry.

Here are some of the factors necessary for successful poultry raising:

1. Clean, airy houses.
2. Balanced ration.
3. Fresh water in clear troughs.
4. Dusted beds.

The two causes that make poultry raising unsuccessful are the red mite and the chicken louse. These two pests breathe through their backs, and the hens are aware of this fact. When a hen is seen dusting herself, she is smothering these lice. Therefore, a pile of dust should be kept in a dry place, so the hens will have access to it in wet weather.

Yazoo County lacks canning clubs, which are sources of interest and profit to the members. Why should you waste the surplus vegetables? There is no reason for this, except laziness. Sometimes the gardener is thrifty enough to throw the surplus vegetables over the fence to the hogs and chickens, but usually he knocks a rail off the fence and lets the hogs and chickens pick for themselves.

Money in Vegetables.

We ship vegetables to the North in carloads and buy them back in cans with colored labels on them. The South buys anything for the label. On one-tenth of an acre one girl made over \$200 and several more made over

\$100, yet they had to pay rent, labor, for seeds and all expenses.

Now we come to the question of raising and keeping potatoes. This is a fine potato country, but what good does that do? We don't know, or are too trifling to raise good potatoes. The average yield in Mississippi is 90 bushels to the acre. In Belgium it is over 300. Belgium's land has been worked for 3,000 years, while Mississippi's has been worked for only 150 years. Once in a while you hear a man boast that he has worn out three farms, and so that he knows more about farming than all the farm demonstrators put together. What would Belgium be if every farmer had worn out three farms?

How to Handle Potatoes.

The newest and best process for storing potatoes is the dry-kiln method. We are the originators of this method, although we are not given credit for it. The dry-kiln is a large room, around the walls of which are long, wide shelves, placed two feet apart. The potatoes are placed on these shelves side by side and enough stoves put in the room to keep the temperature at 120 degrees for two weeks. At the end of this time the potatoes are in fine condition to be kept the entire winter.

While at home last spring I talked so much about potatoes that my son became interested and wanted to raise potatoes himself. I gave him a patch and promised him fifty cents per bushel for all he raised. On my last visit home he informed me that he raised two hundred bushels and insisted on having the money. I gave him the check and had the potatoes put in a dry kiln. I will make my money back since in the spring I will get \$1 per bushel for the entire lot.

Humus in the Soil.

Putting and keeping humus in the soil is a problem which troubles the farmers at the present time. Humus is necessary for proper plant growth and is easily kept in the soil if a layer of dust is kept on top. By using a bed sweep, or some such shallow cultivating implement, a layer of dust may be kept on top all the time. Water rises in the soil through capillary tubes and the dust serves to stop up these tubes, or rather to form such large tubes that the water cannot rise in them.

Possibly you will want to know the difference in a corn (grain) fed hog and a hog that is fed on grain and runs on pasture. Here is an illustration that shows pictures of two hogs, one grain-fed and the other grain-fed and pasture-fed. The former at the end of 180 days weighed less than half as much as did the latter. This was due to a lack of a balanced ration, too much protein being fed.

The Yazoo Pig Club.

Yazoo's Pig Club is certainly a big help and important advertiser for her. Every boy in the county should raise a pig this coming year. I also noticed in your recent contest that one boy's pig weighed only ninety pounds, but I'll guarantee that that same boy's pig will weigh twice that much next year. To show the amount of interest he had, this same boy said he would take the money which he got for his pig and buy another to enter in the pig club next year. In conclusion, I want to show you two bottles of soil, one dark and rich with humus and the other light, packed and hard. The rich soil was taken from a field that is being cultivated wisely every year. This poor soil was taken from one of your uncultivated fields near here. The poor soil, devoid of humus, is hard and lumpy, while the rich soil is loose and dark. The dark soil absorbs and holds the moisture, while the hard soil absorbs very little water and holds a very little. I am showing these to prove the difference between the moisture qualities of the two soils, and thus how to meet the problem of droughts.

I thank you very much for your kind attention and sincerely hope you will be benefited by this lecture.

Death of Young Guy Heater.

Guy, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Heater, died at the home of his parents, near the city last Friday morning about 9 o'clock. He had been afflicted more or less all his life, and death came as a relief to his suffering. The burial took place at Centre Ridge church, and the funeral services were conducted by Rev. M. C. Vick.

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